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CHRISTINE C. QUINN, ESQ.
DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE

October 9, 2012

Dear Family Member,

I learned firsthand the importance of the Albany County Nursing Home when my father became a resident. For nearly a year, I was a frequent visitor and continually impressed at the care and commitment of the staff. These experiences, coupled with my mom's work as a nurse's aide for 30 years and my aunt's work with the Little Sisters of the Poor for nearly 70 years, have shaped my opinion on the need to preserve a health safety net for our residents.

The budget challenges that Albany County faces are well documented, and the fate of the Albany County Nursing Home deserves a more thoughtful and innovative approach than what has been proposed in the past. I want to take this time to let you know firsthand of the work we are doing.

For the past ten months, my team has spent more time on the issue of the Nursing Home than has been spent the previous ten years. I have reviewed all the options, and am announcing today an agreement that will do three things: 1.) Protect seniors and those in need by providing a safety net, 2.) Protects taxpayers by saving close to \$60 million over the next five years and 3.) Takes responsibility to make a decision, after years of debate and controversy, which is well thought out, serves the needs of our residents and is fair to the people of Albany County.

We have signed a Letter of Intent to negotiate with Upstate Services Group, one of the premier Nursing Home operators in New York State. Upstate Services Group operates eleven facilities with 1,600 total beds. Under this deal, Upstate Services Group would operate the Albany County Nursing Home under a ten-year lease agreement, with a renewable five-year option. Upstate Services Group has agreed to maintain the same admission standards that exist now, and to work with the existing staff and the labor union that represents them.

When I first became a County Legislator, and then Chairman of the Legislature, I was a vocal advocate for preserving the critical services provided by the Albany County Nursing Home. When the County's budget started facing financial shortfalls, some immediately called for closure of the Nursing Home. I fought each year to keep it open and pushed for alternatives to be considered. **Your loved one will continue to call the Albany County Nursing Home his or her home under the plan I am announcing.**

While the staff at the Nursing Home has done an excellent job, Albany County has done a poor job managing the Nursing Home itself, and the current annual operating deficit of \$12 million per year is not sustainable. In order to ensure the long-term viability of the Nursing Home, we need to work with them.

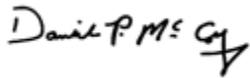
Upstate Services Group is a company with a positive track record around New York State they have worked with nursing homes similar to Albany County's. We share the same goals. I am excited to work with them.

My team has worked night and day to find a solution to this important issue. I am writing to you today because I want you to understand from the bottom of my heart that I am working to ensure that you and your loved ones still have a home as the Albany County Nursing Home faces a transition to facilitate current operational needs.

Because of my past experiences, the Albany County Nursing Home is very close to my heart and I am confronting this issue as an elected official with the utmost caution and care.

I thank you for your understanding as we face this transition and implement a plan that will ensure a brighter future. You may be assured that we will continue to keep you apprised of the progress of this issue and any issues that are of concern to you.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel P. McCoy". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Daniel P. McCoy
Albany County Executive